

# City Council Splits Over Election of City Attorney

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# BOY, 7, RESCUED FROM SUMP

## Council Show-Down on Bond Spending Set Next Tuesday

### Play Bond Plan Show Down Seen

A show down on where to spend the money from the \$5,000,000 recreation bond issue is expected to take place Tuesday, with early indications that the City Council will wind up in a haste.

"We have done nothing to set policy, we have arrived at no conclusion. If this follows the pattern of the last election, I'm going to oppose it," snapped Councilman Robert Jahn.

He referred to a motion by Councilman Nicholas O. Draie who asked Harry B. Van Bellehem to present a program of what improvements are to be made with the bond money, next Tuesday.

"I'm for small, well-developed neighborhood playgrounds. I don't want a 55-acre park as a personal monument," said Councilman Willys Blount.

Jahn remarked that he is opposed to any program which adopts the same sizes and locations as the last bond issue which was defeated by a narrow margin last October.

The other councilmen, however, asked that Van Bellehem come up with a plan that they could use as a starting point for discussion.

An opinion from City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier held that city employees may give information on the bond issue at meetings, although they will not be allowed to express personal sentiments for or against the issue.

Help from city employees to explain the bond issue was asked by Mrs. Eva Bisou, chairman of the committee which circulated the initiative petition. The bond issue will be voted on at the April 8 election.

### Five More Stores Complete Opening in Southwood

Grand opening of five additional stores at the Southwood Shopping Center will be held today, tomorrow and Saturday.

Mayor Albert Isen will attend the formal opening of the shopping center at Palos Verdes and Sepulveda blvds. Saturday at 2 and 7 p.m.

### Torrance Press Ad Results in Speedy Results

Renting her two-bedroom house proved no problem for Mrs. Jimmy Morris, of 1161 W. Jay st.

She said that her classified ad in the Torrance Press brought her a dozen calls, but all she needed was the first one which resulted in a new tenant.

You too can have good results if you call the Torrance Press at FA 8-2345 and ask for a courteous ad-taker to take care of you if you have something to rent, sell or buy.

**SHORT STARTS FIRE**  
A short in the wiring was blamed for a washing machine fire in the home of Steve Hanson, 18832 Cordary ave.

## Mayor Isen Brands Tax Shift Court Charges False, Unfounded

Mayor Albert Isen lashed at reports this week that business and industry in Torrance are favored over individual homeowners in tax assessments, and insisted that the growth of business and industry in this city has eased the tax burden of the residents of Torrance.

Speaking to a series of neighborhood "coffee klatch" meetings, the Mayor, a candidate to succeed himself in the April election, said "It has been the intention of my administration, the school district and others to relieve the homeowner of excessive taxation by a planned program of business and industry development."

"Actually," continued Mayor Isen, "the cost of maintaining our city government is much below that of cities of comparable size. This has been mentioned before in the press, but I would like to emphasize," concluded Isen, "that it is my intention to do everything in my power to keep our government efficiency high and cost low."

At an earlier meeting, Mayor Isen answered a question concerning "government in secret" by saying "it was to eliminate such government that I insisted on eliminating the closed pre-council sessions of past years. I hope that our City Council will never be guilty of misrepresentation and half truth," said the Mayor.

Robert Burke, chairman of the "Committee to Retain Mayor Isen," has announced that Isen will continue to appear at neighborhood gatherings, and will speak at a meeting of the Junior Chamber of Commerce to be held at the Palms on Thursday.

**No School Monday**  
If your children tell you that they don't have to go to school Monday, believe them. Monday is a holiday in the Torrance Unified School District since all teachers will be guests of the Chamber of Commerce during Business-Industry Education Day.

**\$200 FIRE LOSS**  
Ignition of a paper trash bag next to a stove caused \$200 damage to the home of D. M. Van Trease, 4745 Darlen ave., Torrance. Firemen estimated. The blaze charred woodwork and the linoleum.



DEODORIZED—Richard Houston, foreground, and Joe LaPorte dump shovels-full of chlorine into Southwood sump, where a nasty odor has prevailed since the city used it to drain water from dairy land during the recent flood, residents charge.

## Attorney Election Shelved

The city attorney will remain an appointive, rather than elective official, the City Council decided Tuesday, in a 3-to-2 vote.

"If elected, the man could be here or not at all, if things got a little warm, he might not show up at the Council meeting. To change would be a foolhardy mistake," declared Councilman Robert Jahn in opposing the change.

"Yes, a fast shyster could be elected and we'd be very sorry we had him," agreed Councilman Victor Benstead.

The request to place the matter on the ballot was made by the North Torrance Civic Improvement Association.

Originally the group wanted it placed at the municipal election, but it was ruled too late by City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier. He said the matter could be placed on the June 3 primary ballot, if the Council so desired.

**Growing Up**  
"I think we are growing up. Los Angeles and other cities elect their city attorneys. There are such things as recalls if he doesn't come to meetings. Perhaps this is not a bad idea," said Councilman Willys Blount.

"The more elected officials, the better," agreed Councilman Nicholas O. Draie.

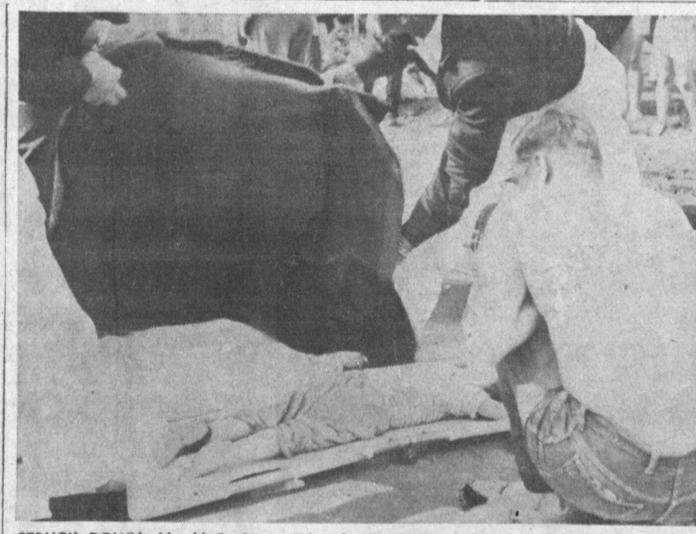
Mayor Albert Isen joined the opposition to the change.

"We have no controls over him and we can't fire him. We might as well elect the street superintendent or any other department head. This would put the cause of good government in Torrance back 50 years."

The council ordered the request filed.

Contract for construction of the municipal court building in the Torrance Civic Center was awarded by the Board of Supervisors.

The successful bidder, Pacific West Coast Construction Company, is expected to start work in about two weeks. The firm submitted the low bid of \$301,500.



STRUCK DOWN—Harold R. Story, 2 1/2, of 1130 E. Renton st., Torrance, is being comforted by father, as ambulance attendants get ready to take him to Harbor General Hospital Sunday morning when youngster was struck by

car driven by Frances Melvina White, 26, of Salinas, at Jay and Edgar sts. Boy received head injuries, but is in "good" condition.

## Four Hurt in 5-Car Collision

Four persons were injured in a spectacular, five-car collision near the Harvey Aluminum plant Monday afternoon.

Torrance police said that the car driven by Patricia Anne Duggan, 29, of 1647 Ruhland st., Manhattan Beach, apparently piled into the other four cars which were stopped on Western ave. while plant guards let traffic out of the parking lot.

Mrs. Myrtle Prestidge, of 835 Oxford ave., Hawthorne, was taken to Riviera Hospital with a possible broken cheek, while the other three persons were released following emergency treatment.

Also injured was Mrs. Prestidge's husband, John Wylie, 44, and Clarence Dupree Johnson, 29, of 420 W. 61st st., Los Angeles, drivers of the fourth and third cars, respectively.

Not injured were Kay Susuma Kawada, 17, of 22805 Madison st., a Torrance High School student; and Mary Jean Bessa Du Moulin, 30, of 1303 W. 253rd st., Harbor City.

The crash took place approximately 125 feet south of the Harvey plant.

The body was taken to Edwards Mortuary, Los Angeles.

## Youth Stabbed in Dispute Over Collision Damage

A Torrance youth was chased by a knife-wielding suspect who stabbed his friend Tuesday night.



PILE-UP—Four persons were injured Monday when five autos crashed into each other on Western ave. near the Harvey Aluminum plant. Officers said driver of fifth car piled into the others which had stopped to permit workers to leave the parking lot.

Steve Gaines, 17, of 5202 Vanderrill rd., accompanied three other youths to the home of Clifton H. Adkins, 22, of 4229 W. Rosecrans blvd., Lawndale, to collect damages from a minor traffic accident.

They told deputy sheriffs that Adkins chased them with a knife, yelling, "I'll kill you and your friends."

One of the youths, Frank William Morgan, 18, of 527 E. 120th st., Los Angeles, was stabbed in the stomach. He is in critical condition in Harbor General Hospital.

Mrs. James Giacinto of 2715 W. 178th st., was given a 30-day extension to get rid of her cheetah, which along with her two cecils was banned from the city.

Mrs. Giacinto said she already had moved the cheetahs but wanted additional time in order to sell her house, and wants to keep the cheetah during that time.

## Proposal to Shut Down Pool, Except in Summer, Submitted

A proposal that the Victor E. Benstead swimming pool be closed down except during the summer, was received by the Park and Recreation Commission last night in conjunction with the department's 1958 budget.

Director Harry B. Van Bellehem submitted budget requests for his department of \$1,072,119, which he said, is approximately 10 per cent higher than the current spending program.

The budget was drawn with the idea of keeping the municipal pool open only during summer vacation months.

Van Bellehem said that costs of operating the pool during the off-season months costs approximately \$2000 per month.

These include lighting, playground equipment replacement and sandbox area at Welteria Park, \$9500.

## Workman Prevents Tragedy

A 7-year-old Torrance boy narrowly escaped drowning in a sump when a workman jumped into the deep water and pulled him out Tuesday afternoon.

Rescued from 7-foot deep water was Gordon Miller, of 18505 Spingling ave., who tumbled into the sump in a brickyard at 17799 S. Western ave.

Here in the rescue was John Vigil, 37, an employee of the Star Brick Co., where the accident occurred.

Gordon, his brother, Gregory, 10, and Larry Downing of 18402 Haas ave., were walking home from school when they spotted a hole in the fence and crawled under it, they told police.

Gordon apparently walked too close to the water's edge and fell in.

Gregory and Larry attempted to rescue him, but when they failed, screamed for help.

"Help, help, my brother is drowning," was the shout that attracted Vigil's attention. He immediately jumped into the pond and brought the struggling youngster to shore.

Workmen at the brickyard said that water from a nearby subdivision flows into the sump every time it rains and makes it quite deep.

Gardena police received the first call and rushed to the scene. They turned the boys over to Torrance officers who took them home.

## Adult Play Program Hit by Criticism

Charges that the Torrance Recreation Department spends too much time and money on adult activities, were answered last night by Director Harry B. Van Bellehem.

The officials said that rumors of criticism of his department have been received by him, and that he wants an opportunity to present facts to the Park and Recreation Commission which meet last night.

Van Bellehem said that adult programs are held to a minimum and that nearly all are completely self supporting.

He pointed out that the adult programs give good example to youngsters, and provide volunteer help and financial assistance to the youth programs.

"We feel that adult activities are an important part of any recreation department program . . . and we have attempted to carry on adult programs with a unique approach that involves less expense to the city than almost any adult program in Southern California," Van Bellehem said.

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The director also said that the city provides golf and other lessons at a much lower price, so that persons who might not be otherwise afford them, can enjoy these activities.

## Douglas to Move Skyhawk Final Assembly Work

Plans to shift final assembly and flight operations of the Navy's A4D Skyhawk jet attack plane from El Segundo and Torrance to Palmdale, were announced today by Douglas Aircraft Co.

Arrangements for the transfer were instituted following an agreement under which the Navy was given cognizance over the Air Force facility now occupied by Northrop Aircraft Co. at Palmdale Airport.

The Douglas announcement by F. W. Conant, vice chairman of the board, estimated that employment at the Palmdale location will be from 500 to 600.

Additional play equipment, picnic shelter, relocation of ball diamond, new restrooms, lighting, landscaping of picnic areas, barbecue stoves and outfield

Play equipment area and picnic area at Sea-Air Park, \$10,000.

McMaster Park

Additional play equipment, picnic shelter, relocation of ball diamond, new restrooms, lighting, landscaping of picnic areas, barbecue stoves and outfield

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